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News Release

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Apple Valley man sentenced to 78 months in prison for possessing child pornography

A 31-year-old Apple Valley man was sentenced yesterday in federal court to 78 months in prison on one count of possession of child pornography.

United States District Court Judge Donovan Frank also sentenced Brian Wayne Lowe to a lifetime of supervised release July 31 in Minneapolis. Lowe was indicted Jan. 23, and pleaded guilty on April 15.

According to Lowe's plea agreement, he did knowingly possess, in electronic format, one or more digital video files of minors under the age of 12 engaging in sexually explicit conduct on April 13, 2007. These images included at least 116 images and 26 video clips, which were stored on both Lowe's computer hard drive and on compact discs.

Lowe also agreed that the visual depictions were produced using materials that had been transported, by computer, in interstate commerce.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Apple Valley Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James E. Lackner.

This case was part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative that encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional task forces to investigate and prosecute cases that involve the sexual exploitation of children over the Internet. PSC urges that law enforcement efforts be complemented by community-wide campaigns to assist victims of exploitation and to educate parents, other adults, and children about Internet safety.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, one in 33 children receives an unwanted sexual solicitation online each year. One in four children experiences unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material on the Internet each year. And, more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week. Moreover, recent research conducted by the

Federal Bureau of Prisons indicates a strong correlation between possessing or distributing child pornography and committing sexual-contact crimes against children.